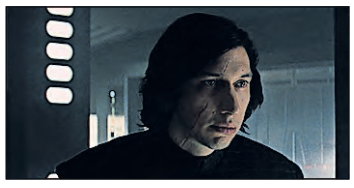

**'Star Wars: The Last Jedi'**

Check out our review of the latest in the saga

FRIDAY


# THE PLAIN DEALER

For news on the go, get the free cleveland.com mobile apps

**Friday, December 15, 2017** 1842 175 years 2017 FINAL EDITION | **$1.50**


## Today's weather

Snow showers.

**High:** 29
**Low:** 23

**Saturday:** Warmer, 38 | 27
**Sunday:** Cloudy, 41 | 33

Weather report, **A2**

## Metro&State

### State defends choices for marijuana licenses

The state defends how it awarded a limited number of medical marijuana grow licenses amid allegations of errors and wrongdoing. **A4**

## Nation&World

### Tavis Smiley 'shocked' by PBS suspension

Tavis Smiley is fighting back against sexual misconduct accusations that resulted in PBS suspending distribution of his late-night talk show. **A8**

## Business

### NE Ohio home sales jump in November

November home sales were up 8.1 percent in Northeast Ohio as steady demand and scarce inventory continue to drive up prices. **A12**

## Sports

### LeBron has triple double in win over Lakers

LeBron James tied Larry Bird for sixth place in NBA history in triple doubles and the Cavaliers beat Lonzo Ball and the Lakers 121-112. **B1**

## Forum

### Is Warren primed for White House run?

**Opinion:** Two analysts look at what Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren would bring to a White House run — and what shes wouldn't. **E1**

## Diversions

### Tapping into her past for 'A Christmas Story'

Jane Krakowski, who plays Ralphie's teacher in Fox's "A Christmas Story Live," puts her childhood tap lessons to good use. **P1**

## cleveland.com

### Ranking every Rock Hall nominee

With the Rock Hall announcing its Class of 2018, we figured it was time to see how the new members stack up with their predecessors.

**cleveland.com/entertainment**

## Index


Business ..... A12
Classifieds ..... B12
Comics ..... O1, P1
Crossword ..... O2, O3, P4
Deaths ..... A16
Forum ..... E1
Friday ..... T1
Lotteries ..... A2
Metro ..... A4
Movie Listings ..... T10
Nation & World ..... A8
Sports ..... B1
TV Listings ..... P2


## Customer service

**To subscribe or report delivery issues:** Call 216-999-6000

**Congress**

# Dissension threatens tax bill

## Florida's Rubio holds out over low-income child credit

Stephen Ohlemacher and Marcy Gordon
*Associated Press*

Washington — The Republicans' razor-thin margin for driving their sweeping tax package through the Senate was thrown into jeopardy Thursday when GOP Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida declared he would vote against it unless negotiators expand the tax credit that low-income Americans can claim for their children.

Rubio's potential defection complicates Republican leaders' goal of muscling the $1.5 trillion bill through Congress next week to hand President Donald Trump his first major legislative victory by Christmas.

Senate Republicans could still pass the package without Rubio's vote, but they would be cutting it extremely close. An original version was approved by only 51-49 — with Rubio's support. The co-sponsor of Rubio's proposed change, Republican Sen. Mike Lee of Utah, is undecided on the overall bill and pushing to make the credit as generous as possible, said Lee spokesman Conn Carroll.

The Senate turmoil came on the same day that a key faction of House Republicans came out in favor of the bill, boosting its chances. Members of the conservative House Freedom Caucus predicted that the vast majority of their members would support the package.

see TAXES | **A15**

# Elves in Santa's workshop

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA DEJONG | THE PLAIN DEALER

**Sarah Wilkinson, right, laughs as she tries to adapt a toy for children with disabilities during a workshop Thursday at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. VA center employees volunteered to help rebuild the toys for RePlay for Kids, a nonprofit organization that repairs, adapts and distributes toys for children with various disabilities. Jennifer Livingston, left, a VA employee, brought her son Christopher Turner, center, to help with the toys.**

**Kevin Foglyano, a biomedical engineer, dissects a talking-baby toy at the workshop.**

**Volunteers adapt a talking Elmo doll for RePlay for Kids, a nonprofit organization.**

**A VA employee works on a toy at Thursday's workshop, making it more user-friendly.**

**Media merger**

# Disney, Fox announce $52B purchase deal

Brooks Barnes
*New York Times*

Los Angeles — The Walt Disney Co. said Thursday that it had reached a deal to buy most of the assets of 21st Century Fox, the conglomerate controlled by Rupert Murdoch, in an all-stock transaction valued at roughly $52.4 billion.

While the agreement is subject to the approval of antitrust regulators — and the Justice Department recently moved to block a big media company, AT&T, from becoming even bigger — the once unthinkable acquisition promises to reshape Hollywood and Silicon Valley. It is the biggest counterattack from a traditional media company against the tech giants that have aggressively moved into the entertainment business.

Disney now has enough muscle to become a true competitor to Netflix, Apple, Amazon, Google and Facebook in the fast-growing realm of online video.

At the same time, the agreement means that one of moviedom's most celebrated studios, 20th Century Fox, will be downsized, with some operations folded into Walt Disney Studios or refocused to make films designed for online distribution. Founded in 1935, the Fox studio championed Marilyn Monroe, produced classics like "The Sound of Music," released the first "Star Wars" movie and, more recently, turned "Avatar" into the biggest ticket-seller of all time.

see DISNEY | **A13**

**Insurance jobs**

# Progressive set to hire 1,300 here next year

## Easter-egg-prize video game pitches firm to millennials

Olivera Perkins
*operkins@plaind.com*

Progressive Insurance plans to hire more than 7,500 employees in 2018 — about 1,300 of them in Northeast Ohio.

But don't wait until next year to apply for the openings, said Erin Hendrick, manager of recruiting.

"We're starting to pick up now, in terms of hiring, for roles that would start in January or February," she said. "The first quarter tends to be a pretty strong hiring period."

Hendrick said many of the openings will be in the company's customer care and claims functions. These include inbound sales representatives — who field customers' requests, such as those involving quotes for new policies — as well as representatives who handle claims.

see PROGRESSIVE | **A12**

**Deregulation**

# FCC ends neutrality rules for internet

Brian Fung
*Washington Post*

Washington — Federal regulators voted Thursday to allow internet providers to speed up service for some apps and websites — and block or slow down others — in a decision repealing landmark, Obama-era regulations for broadband companies such as AT&T and Verizon.

The move to deregulate the telecom and cable industry is a major setback for tech companies, consumer groups and Democrats who lobbied heavily against the decision. And it marks a significant victory for Republicans who vowed to roll back the efforts of the prior administration, despite a recent survey showing that 83 percent of Americans — including 3 out of 4 Republicans — opposed the plan.

see FCC | **A15**

6 74776 18011 4

"Cleveland Museum of Art's Jazz Age show is a glittery, ebullient knockout" –*Plain Dealer*

THE JAZZ AGE
AMERICAN STYLE IN THE 1920s

On view only through January 14

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

ClevelandArt.org

Presenting Sponsors
Dealer Tire · Marshall and Brenda Brown · Jane and Doug Kern · Bill and Joyce Litzler

Special Thanks
Barbara Deisroth · Sandra and Richey Smith · Howard Hanna Real Estate · Terry Kovel

Media Partner
3 wkyc · arts culture · Ohio Arts Council

Co-organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art and Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York
*Muse with Violin Screen* (detail), 1930. Paul Fehér (Hungarian, 1898–1990), designer. Rose Iron Works (American, Cleveland, est. 1904). Wrought iron, brass; silver and gold plating; 156.2 x 156.2 cm. The Cleveland Museum of Art, On Loan from Rose Iron Works Collections, LLC. © Rose Iron Works Collections, LLC